AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-19. (canceled)

20. (currently amended) In an online network-connected computer system of the type that receives requests transmitted over a network from users and responds by providing responsive data over said network for display by said requesting users, a method of performing computer based processes to process online auction-style listings and provide associated responsive data for display, said method comprising:

recording a predetermined listing end time for an auction style listing stored in a computer memory;

receiving, from users over the network, bids with respect to said auction style listing;

automatically extending said predetermined end time if a bid for said auction-style listing is received near the predetermined listing end time; and

sending responsive data to users over the network for display, said sent responsive data indicating at least that said predetermined end time is extended, wherein said automatically extending further extends said

already extended end time upon receiving an additional bid after said end time has been extended.

21-22. (canceled)

23. (currently amended) In an online network-connected computer system of the type that receives request~~s~~ ~~signals~~ transmitted over a network from users and responds by providing ~~at least signals~~ data over said network for display by said requesting users, a method of performing computer based processes to ~~providing signals~~ provide data over the network relating to online auction-style listings, the method comprising:

maintaining a database of items available for auction-style listing;

receiving ~~signals~~ requests allowing sellers to specify whether items are to be listed in said database as conditional or binding transactions;

in response to user request~~s~~ ~~signals~~ received over the network, generating and sending ~~signals~~ data over the network representing displays of (a) the conditional or binding characteristic of an item listing, and (b) at least some other information relating to the item; and

receiving further ~~signals~~ requests representing offers to purchase the item over the network that lead to change in state of the ownership of the item.

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24. (currently amended) In an online network-connected computer system of the type that receives requests ~~signals~~ transmitted over a network from users and responds by providing at least ~~signals~~ data over said network for display by said requesting users, a method of providing online listings ~~services and~~ comprising:

maintaining at least one database of items listed for sale;

sending, over the network, ~~signals~~ data representing a user interface display of at least some of said items in a classified advertising listing format~~;~~,;

sending, over the network, ~~signals~~ data representing a user interface display of at least others of said items in an auction-style listing format; and

allowing sellers, through automatic interaction with the computer system, to select item listings and flexibly change selected item listings between said classified advertising and said auction-style listing formats.

25. (currently amended) In an online network-connected computer system of the type that receives requests ~~signals~~ transmitted over a network from users and responds by providing at least ~~signals~~ data over said network for display by said requesting users, a method of providing online transaction services comprising:

storing auction-style listings in a database;

allowing potential bidders to search through and request selective display of at least some of said database contents via ~~signals~~ messages exchanged over a network;

accepting ~~signals representing~~ bids from users and providing ~~signals~~ data representing at least some information concerning said bids to corresponding sellers; and

allowing sellers whose items have been bid upon to use the network to issue offers to sell items users have bid on while temporarily suspending auction-style listings for predetermined durations, thereby preventing other users from submitting bids on said suspended auction-style listings when corresponding unaccepted offers to sell from sellers to users for said items are outstanding.

26. (previously presented) The method of claim 25 further including allowing sellers to issue offers to sell to high bidders before listing expiration, and allowing sellers to issue offers to sell to any bidders after a listing expiration.

27. (previously presented) The method of claim 25 further including allowing sellers to issue set offers to sell after auction-style listing expiration.

28-37 (canceled)

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38. (currently amended) In an online network-connected computer system of the type that receives requests ~~signals~~ transmitted over a network from users and responds by providing at least ~~signals~~ data over said network for display by said requesting users, a method of providing online auction-style listing services comprising:

storing information relating to items for sale auction-style in a computer database;

scheduling auction-style listings and associated end times associated with said listed items;

posting auction style listings on a web page for viewing by users, said auction style listings soliciting competitive bids while concealing predetermined prices the seller will accept to sell items;

receiving, from users over the network, ~~signals representing~~ competitive bids with respect to said auction style listings; and

in response to a bid received before the end of an auction style ~~lising~~ listing, allowing authorized sellers to accept bids and unilaterally end auction-style listings before said end times.